

Secretary of Agriculture - Mike Johanns  
And Staff

It was too many miles to Grand Island NE, so I  
chose to write a letter, which is enclosed.



Lawn & Schrantz

P.S. Also enclosed pictures and graphs.

## Provide **YOUR** Input on the **2007 Farm Bill**

at the

# Farm Bill Forum

Featuring Secretary of Agriculture  
**Mike Johanns**

**September 15, 2005**  
**1-4 PM**

**Country Life Tent (tentative site)**  
**Husker Harvest Days**  
**Grand Island, Neb.**

The Farm Bill Forum is designed to allow citizens an opportunity to share their opinions with Secretary Johanns and other USDA officials concerning the 2007 Farm Bill. The public is also welcome to submit their comments via the USDA Farm Bill Forum website at <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill> or by mailing comments to Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, Farm Bill, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3720.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

December 15-2005  
85140 - 569 Ave.  
Winside, NE. 68790

Mike Johanns  
Secretary of Agriculture and Staff  
Farm Bill - 2007  
1400 Independence Ave.  
SW Washington  
DC 20250 - 3355

## Comments For Farm Bill 2007

How can Farm Policy best achieve  
Conservation and Environmental goals?

I am "Granny". I Farmed and managed with my dad, husband, Son and Daughter all my life and Still am involved in agriculture. Many new and modern Agriculture technologies have come thru Science during my past years!

① Conservation and Environmental Goals  
should be Priority now and in The Future  
For all Farm Bills.

If producers of agriculture products, people associated with Agriculture, industry and business, insist on High Production and Profits, neglecting Conservation and Environmental goals, The

(Turn over page 2)

Page two - Karen S. Stanton

U.S population, wildlife and domestic creatures, all will suffer the consequences, including those who create the problem.

## ② Vital For All Survival

Clean Drinking water, Food and Air

Farm Bill 2007: Needs to Control

Contaminates and Pollution

Maybe, new technology will be able to remove the Contaminates and control pollution at a "great expense". But, the more of these elements in the water, food and air chain, brings higher expenses and health hazards. Expenses outweighing income creates havoc and depression in the population. NO prosperity!

## ③ Now, is the time to Start at the Source

Farm Bill 2007: Keep Continuous CRT!

Make Sure it Continues into the Future!

I am Sold on the programs available for Conservation and Environmental goals in my area! The Soil Stewardship program, Number 1 priority. As Information to you I will use my experiences, I have had in initiation, conservation and Environmental Goals programs.

My Farms are located in  
Stanton and Wayne Co. in Northeast N.Y.  
(Turn over page 3)

page three - LAVON S. SCHRONT

They have highly erodible hills with Bottom Flat ground. Creeks are fed with Flowing springs that produce fresh ground water year round. The Farms have been "tilled" for years by "Family." Being "A Good Steward of the Land", has always been practiced.

I became interested in 1998, how the "newly designed programs" would benefit the land using Conservation, Environmental Goals and Production.

During year 2001 -(Number 1 priority) Conservation. I (the owner) and (tenants) (producers) enrolled in Conservation Reserve Practices. Quality in our Acres were for: Filter, Riparian Forest, Contour, grass buffer strips and waterways. The Farm Tenants (Producers) use minimum and no till seeding, using modern pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer to produce "High Yield" crops. Buffers; also, provide wildlife habitat.

Those Continuous Conservation Reserve Practices are "doing their Job". The Practices keep Contaminates, pollutants, residue and washed soil from entering the creeks when the rains come! Working with my Natural Resources Dist., Local Farm Service Agency and numerous other pieces of information (University of Nebr., Forestry, Seeds, grasses, wildlife, environment) available was satisfying and inspirational.  
(Turn over to page 4)

Page Four: Louie Schantz

But Farming and Production are A Business in this day and age!!!

I am "not" "Happy". No body, can survive in this business without covering costs and showing some marginal profit. All business and Industry has, too. This is U.S.A. Business!! Real Estate and Income Taxes are the base in providing for a prosperous population and a country's high standards of living.

Why! I am not HAPPY! Graphs Show me, I should "Neglect" Conservation and Environmental Goals. Commodities much more Profit Ability. Commodity Credit Corporation, CCC leans toward paying more for commodities than Conservation and Environmental goals, creating "top-sided" subsidy.

Enclosed are graphs showing this for the past 9 years and still continuing!  
Farm Bill 2007

(4) Avoid, "Lop-sided" Subsidies  
Make Conservation Acres and Environmental goals a priority Number 1 and Production along with them. Subsidies Ed Marked For each category, Conservation & Environment: Production: Disaster

My local Natural Resources District did all the "field work in putting my practices

into "working" ability. the NRC Districts Should have "Equal Control" of the Federal Subsidies, The graphs Show three categories, 5 Subsidies; Conservation and Commodities Should be "Equal"

Changes Can be accomplished, if their are Incentives, Cost Share, Rent and Profit Ability, available; Thru Subsidies!

Subsidies in Agriculture and its Natural Resources are needed in this modern industrial Age.

### Remember:

Agriculture, production, associated industries, Food Chain, etc. Can and in the future provide numerous types of jobs for U.S.A. population.

Agriculture, production, associated industry, Food Chain, etc., Universities, etc. "biggest employer" for U.S.A. population.

More Unhappiness, Torn Apart  
Decisions in my senior years  
have torn me apart. I am still involved  
in agriculture!!

Two Decisions one Do I enroll the Farms in Conservation and Environmental Goals programs? (Yes) My families were "Home Steaders". We have always tried to make a living, and home for our families on the farm. We used all the resources (turn over) to page 6

Page 6: Loren S. Schrant

one "work load", we could find to produce for our families and our urban and city population. We were "good Stewarts of the Land!" Used Conservation plans!

(two) Profit Ability - Business wise!

Bad Decision! Enrolling ground into Conservation and Environmental Goals. No

Much more profit in Commodities and Production. Reasons: we Should Farm For Production.

Ignore, Neglect Conservation and Environment. Farm, Fenceline to fence line, up hill and down hill, thru waterways and up to the creek banks. Ignore the environment, with animals and wastes!! Much more profit for "Share Holder" and business!! Is this what Freedom to Farm Brought? "yes" in my "opinion."

Freedom to Farm Should "not justify" the biggest share of subsidy, for Commodities when Conservation and Environment is neglected.

Enrolling ground in Conservation and Environment Goals: My experiences, For Information:

(A) to much "out of pocket cost" percentage of cost to the people who want to enroll in Conservation and Environment

Incentives all used For costs.

(Continued) to page 7

(B) Maintenance payment from Continuous CRP and Environment programs - Very, very, very low. More "out of pocket" expenses for being enrolled - Fees and Fines imposed on people if maintenance is not met, according to rules and regulations, regardless of costs.

(C) Annual Rent per acre for Conservation and Environment - Low compared to what you can get per acre for production commodities.

I Am "torn"  "Big Mistake"

"Profit wise" "Putting ground in Conservation"

b) Form Bill 2007

Do A better job in Spending Subsidies. Also, How they are distributed.

Conservation and Environment Should receive just as much Profit Ability as Production when receiving Subsidies.

Conservation practice and Environmental goals Acres should show as much profit per acre as production acres, from Subsidy money.

7) Form Bill 2007 - Land not enrolled is All needed, Conservation and Environmental Goals Should Not Receive Production Subsidies!!  
(Turn over) to page 8

Page 8 - Laron S. Schrant

: Anyone is welcome to visit our  
forms in Northeast Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Granny

Laron S. Schrant

A Farmers Daughter, Wife, Mother and  
Grandmother. Also, A Former  
Rural School Teacher.

Occ. Sent to, Senate and House Representatives,  
Local and State Representatives.

P.S. Farmers Bill 2007 should be labeled:  
Survival and prosperity for U.S. Farmers and  
Consumers.

Pages of information

graphics

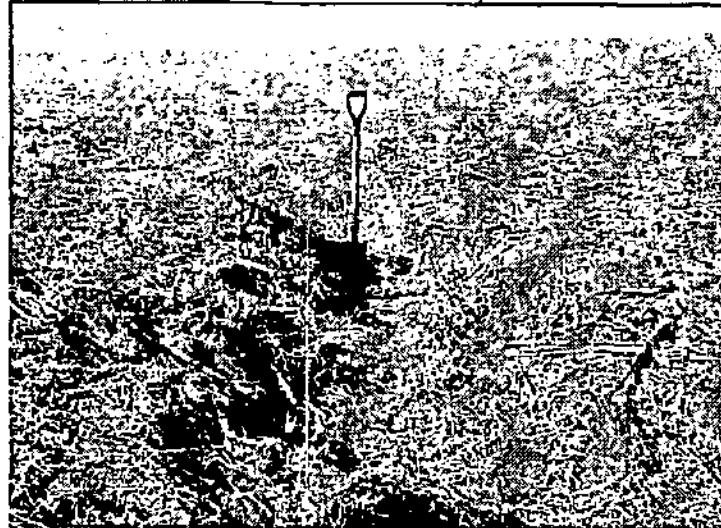
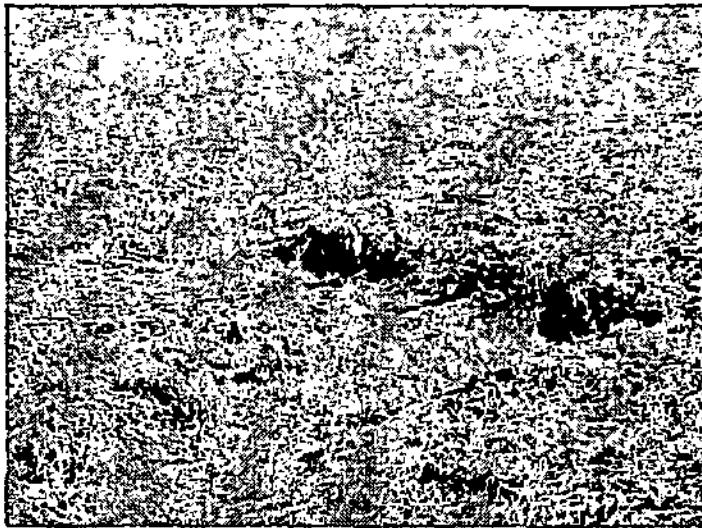
Farm Conservation Photos

(On my farm)

Lawn Schrant

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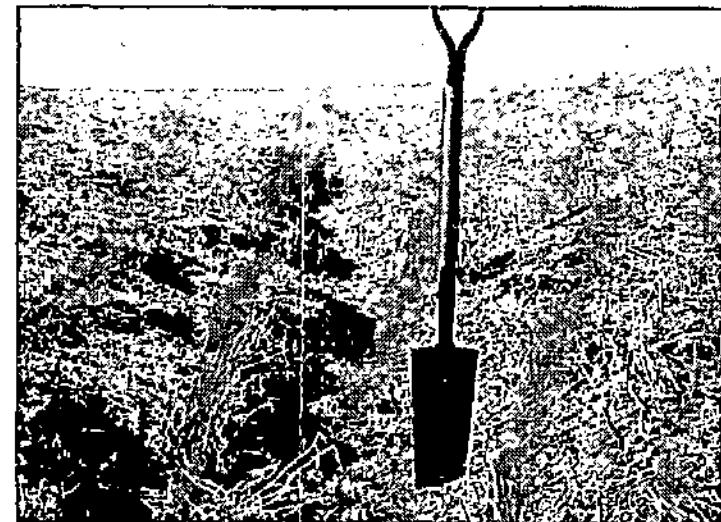


Picture Page one



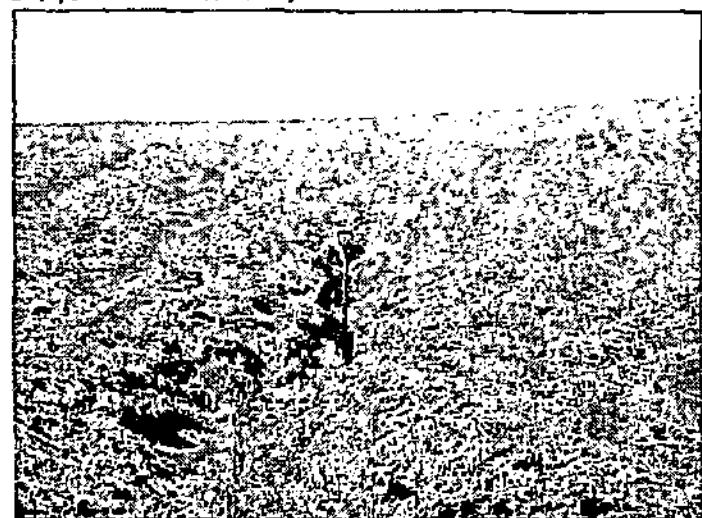
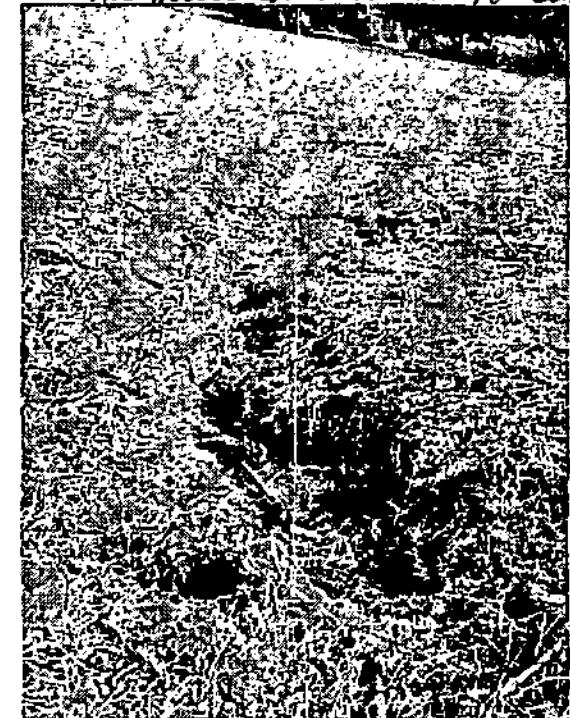
Corn - Bean Rotation  
This parcel of ground has been  
no tilled - Ditches are becoming 3 to  
4 Feet deep - Farm Machinery Cannot  
Cross Them Any more.

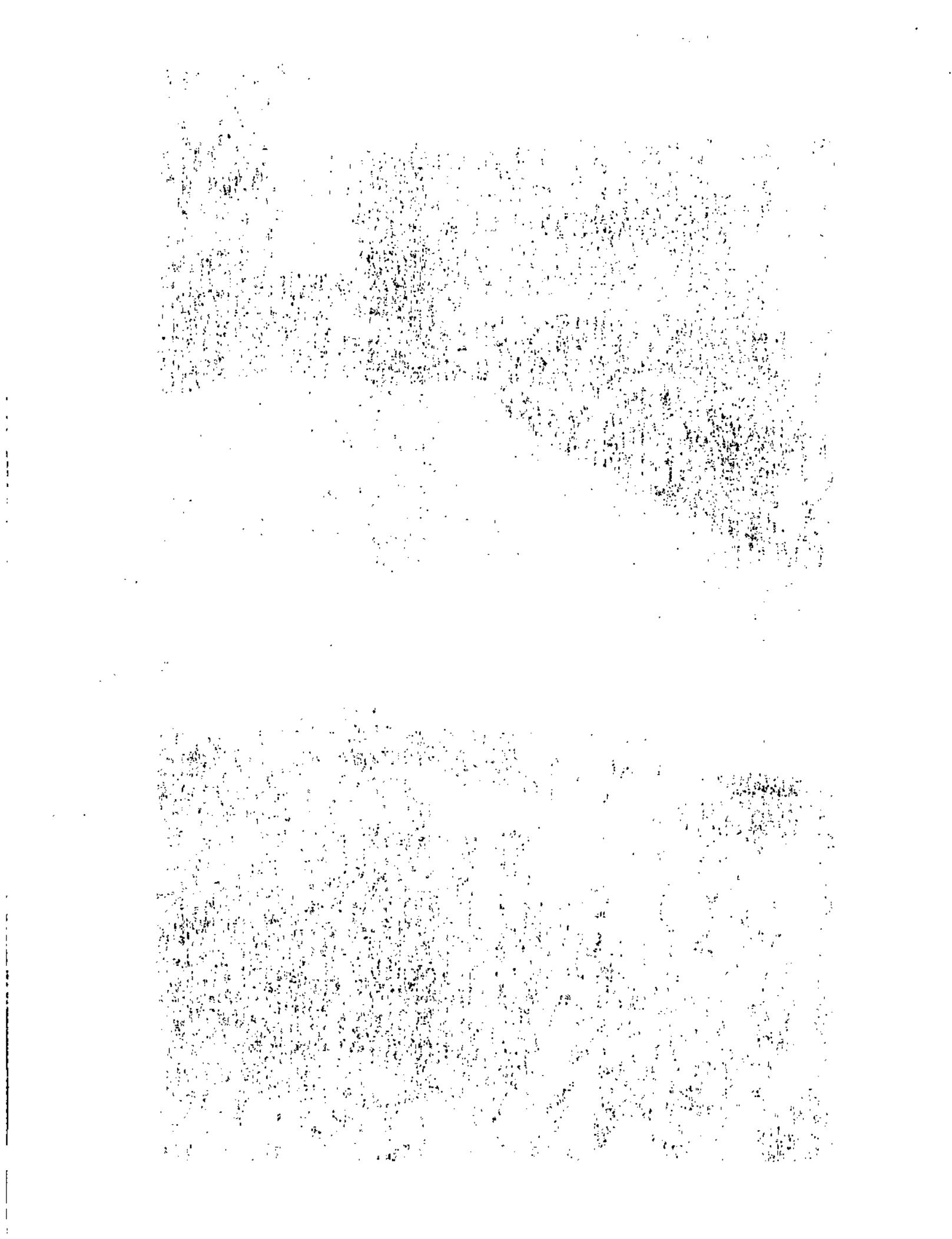
No till Does not Control Erosion in  
erodible hills,



Contour grass and Filter strips  
Are needed with No till TO control

erosion  
and  
run-off

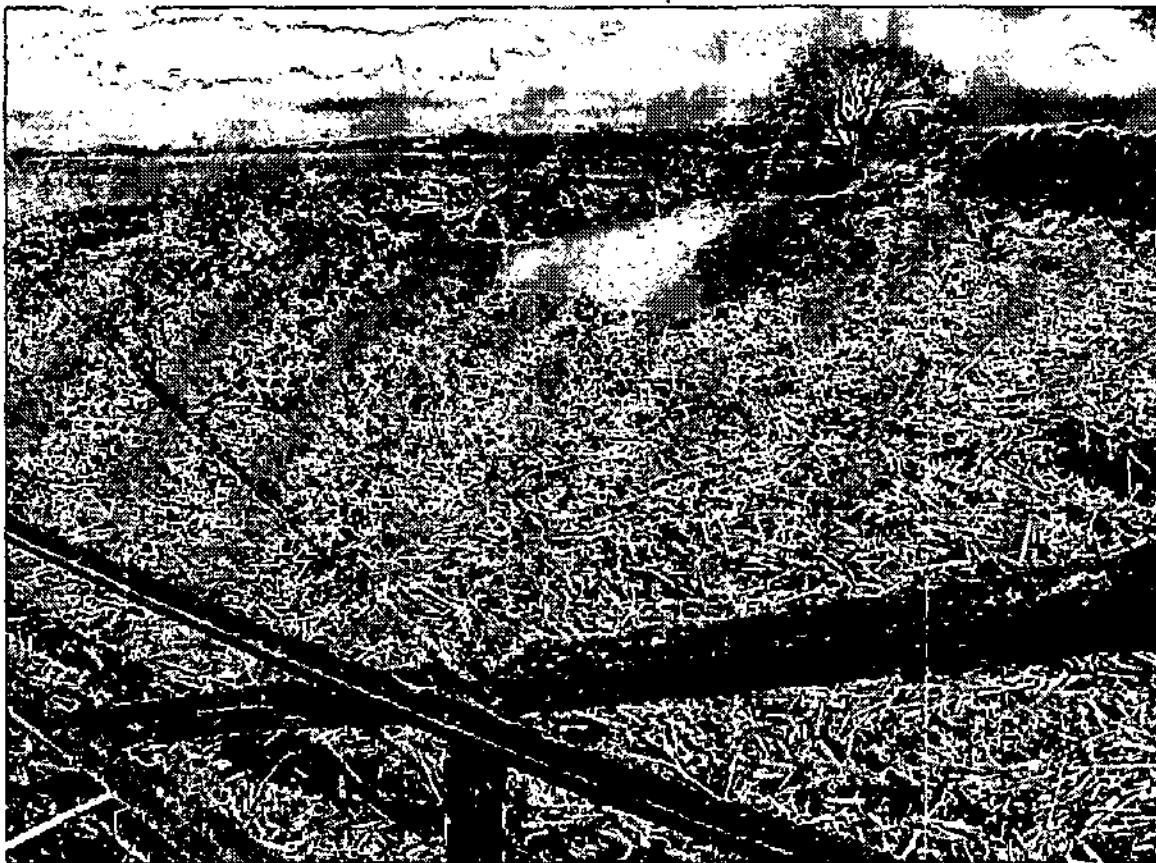


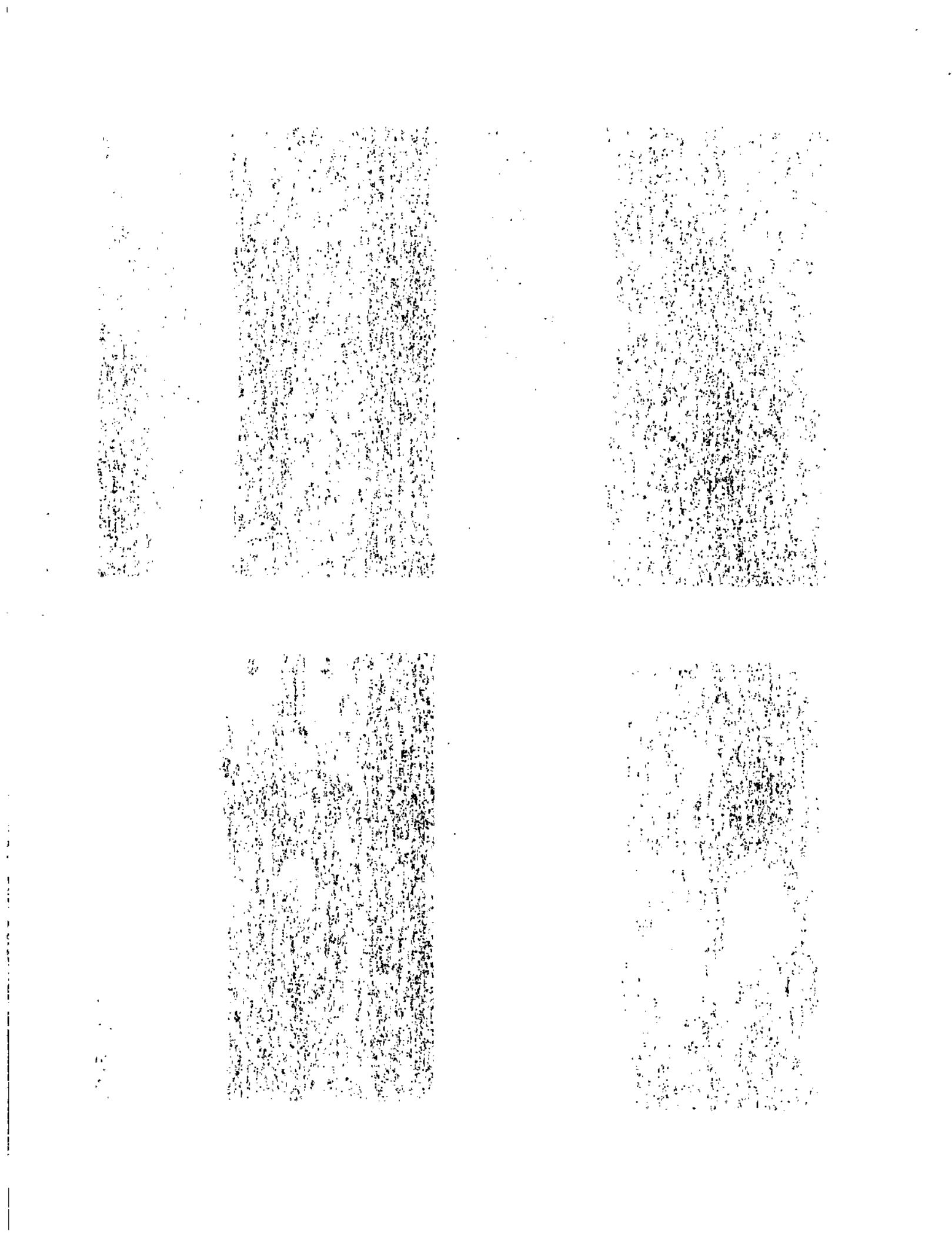


Laron Schraut 85140-569 Ave Winside, Nebr  
68790

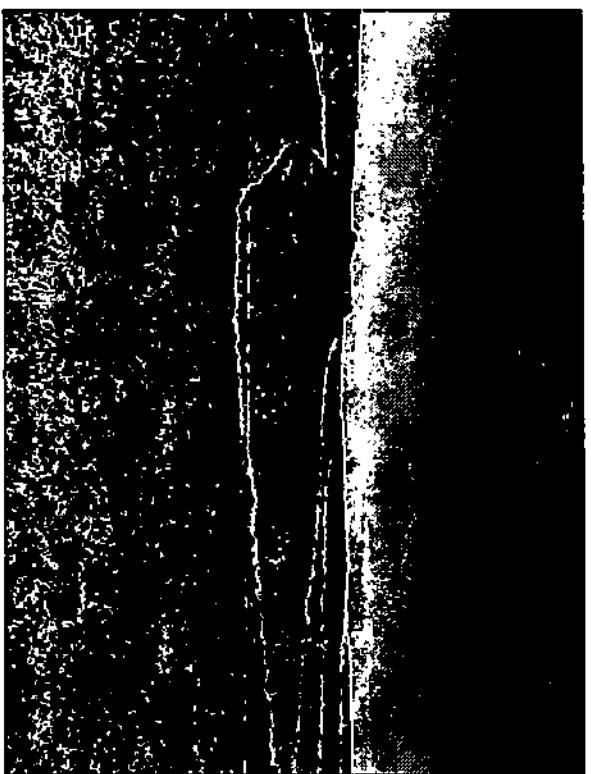


Run-off From Rain - From Erodable Hills - No till  
(without ~~conservation~~) plugging county bridges, tubes, etc  
Run-off carries Debris - pollutants - pesticides - herbicide - Soil into Creeks





LAVON SCHRONT - 85140 - 569 Ave - Winside, NE. 68790  
(on my farm) 2005



Conservation practices installed - Contour grass And Filter stripes Among Crop Rows  
No Ditches - No Soil erosion or rain run-off.



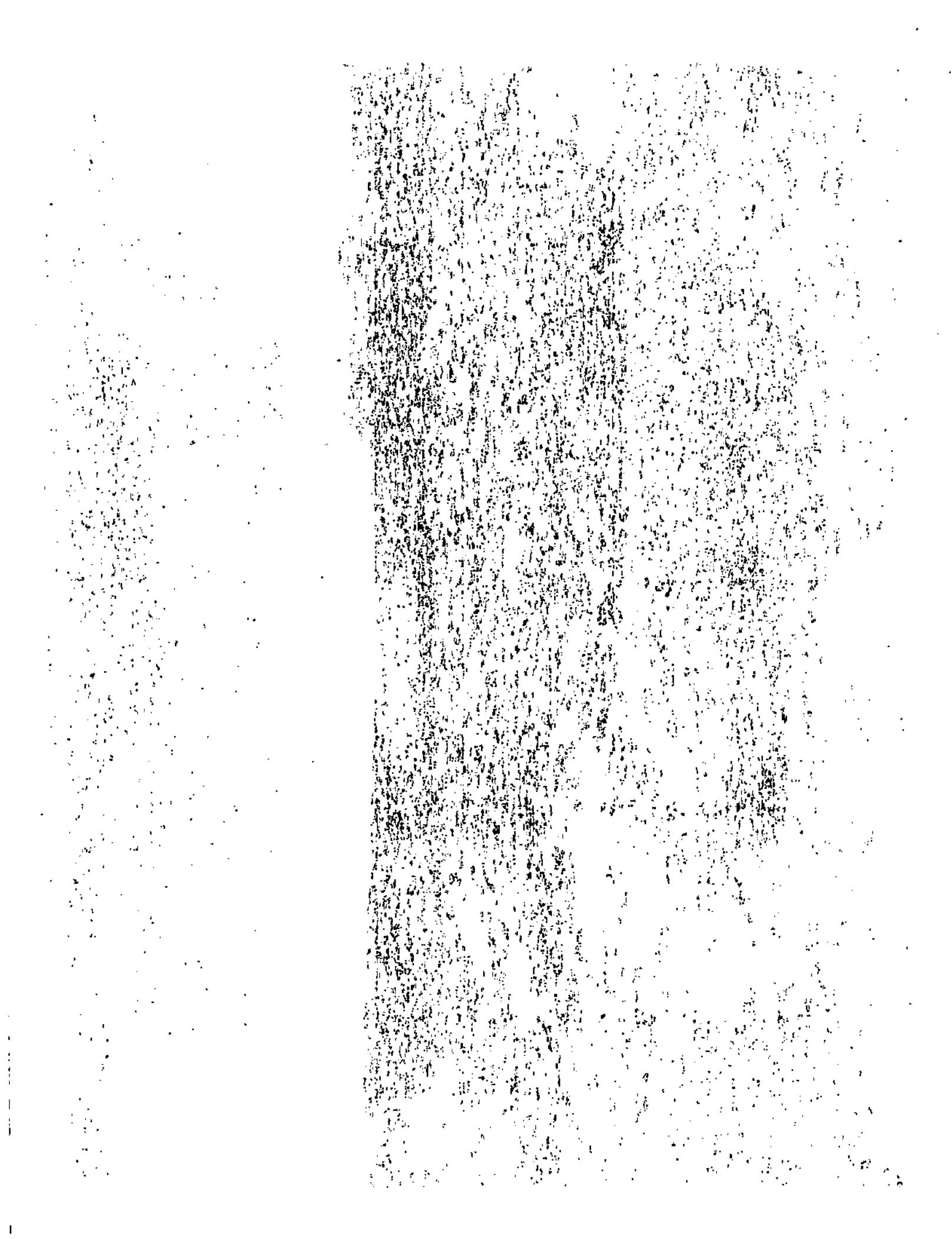
Picture  
page  
three



LAVON SCHRONT - 85140 - Buffer Strips - Water ways and Bean crop - Conservation

Farm Located in Hayman Precinct - Stanton Co. Nebraska

No till - Beans planted in residue. No Ditches, Soil management, Contaminates no pollution from modern Farming, rock the Creek - Riparian forest, planted along Creek.

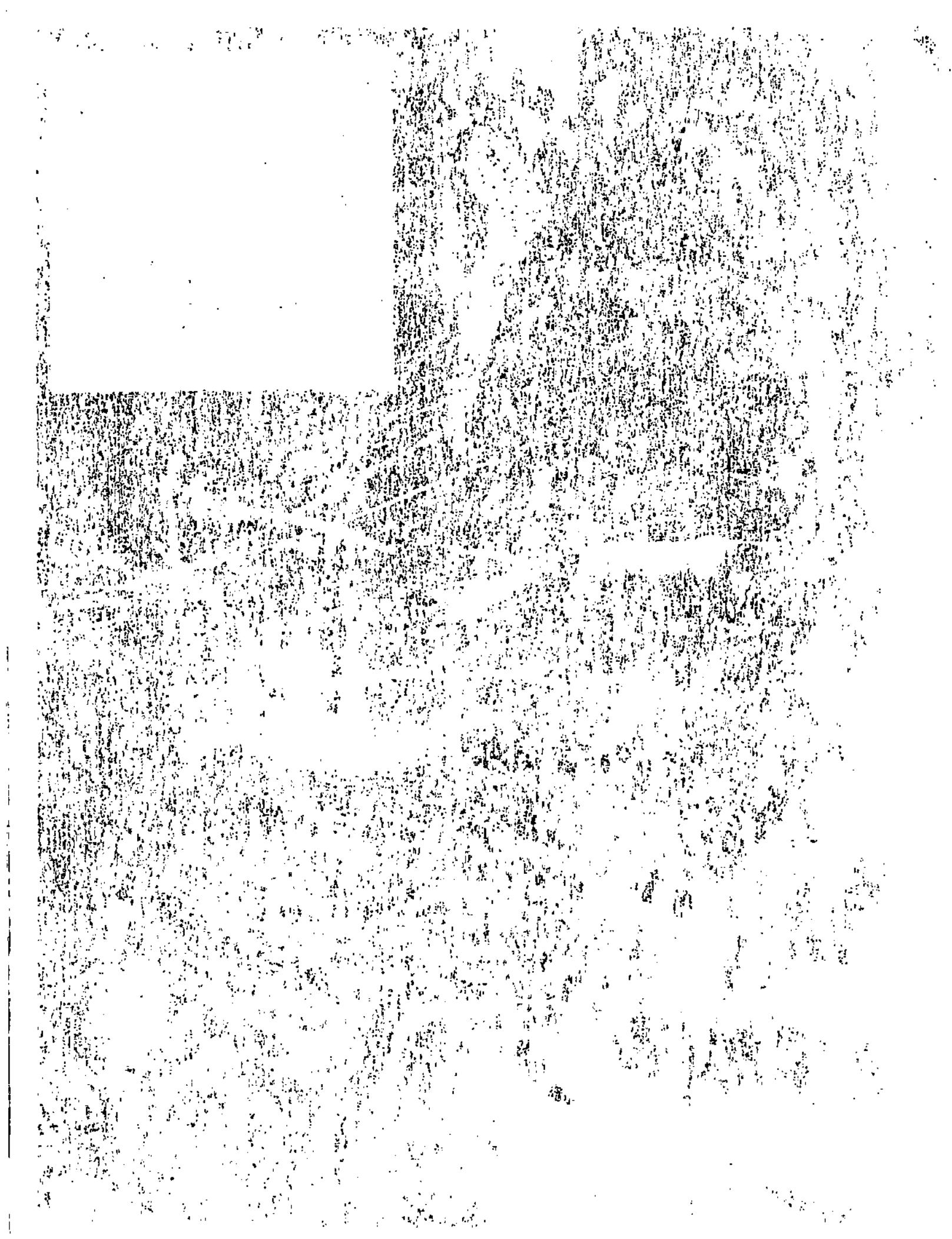


2005 (on my farm) Jason Schantz 85140 - 569 Acre winside NE. 65790



Conservation: Contour grass Buffer Strip and waterway "Doing Their Job"  
(Picture page 4)

YEAR  
2005



Loren Schantz

85140 - 569 Ave

WINSIDE

IVT. 65790.

Soy Bean planted "No till"  
into former year crop  
"corn" residue

NO Run off or  
Erosion when planted  
Among Contour Buffer Strips  
on this part of my  
farms. 2005  
Picture pose

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LAON Schrant- 85140- 569 Ave - Winside NE 68790

Year	Conservation Subsidies		Disaster Subsidies		Commodity Subsidies		Total USDA Subsidies	
	recipients	payments	recipients	payments	recipients	payments	recipients	payments
1995	286	\$1,989,600	1	\$3,172	740	\$2,941,048	903	\$4,933,820
1996	292	\$1,803,343	0	\$0	820	\$2,162,533	974	\$3,965,876
1997	216	\$1,175,250	0	\$0	840	\$3,137,203	955	\$4,312,453
1998	134	\$899,566	26	\$27,064	813	\$6,106,479	898	\$7,033,109
1999	134	\$867,448	47	\$378,802	848	\$13,556,348	930	\$14,802,597
2000	143	\$862,227	6	\$10,410	844	\$13,476,482	924	\$14,349,118
2001	159	\$920,749	349	\$1,817,082	797	\$12,610,610	899	\$15,348,441
2002	167	\$901,705	313	\$994,195	730	\$3,722,066	877	\$5,617,967
2003	171	\$916,149	185	\$779,523	757	\$5,344,206	851	\$7,039,878
Total	440	\$10,336,037	541	\$4,010,248	1,269	\$63,056,975	1,494	\$77,403,260

USDA Subsidies to Wayne County, Nebraska by year

Year	"Lop-Sided" Subsidies	Subsidy Amount
1995	[REDACTED]	\$4,933,820
1996	[REDACTED]	\$3,965,876
1997	[REDACTED]	\$4,312,453
1998	[REDACTED]	\$7,033,109
1999	[REDACTED]	\$14,802,597
2000	[REDACTED]	\$14,349,118
2001	[REDACTED]	\$15,348,441
2002	[REDACTED]	\$5,617,967
2003	[REDACTED]	\$7,039,878
1995-2002		\$77,403,260
■ Farm Programs ■ Conservation Programs ■ Disaster Programs		

### Conservation Verses Commodities - Subsidies

1995-2003 - 9 years

Recipients 440

Per Recipient Approx.  
\$23,491

1995-2003 - 9 years

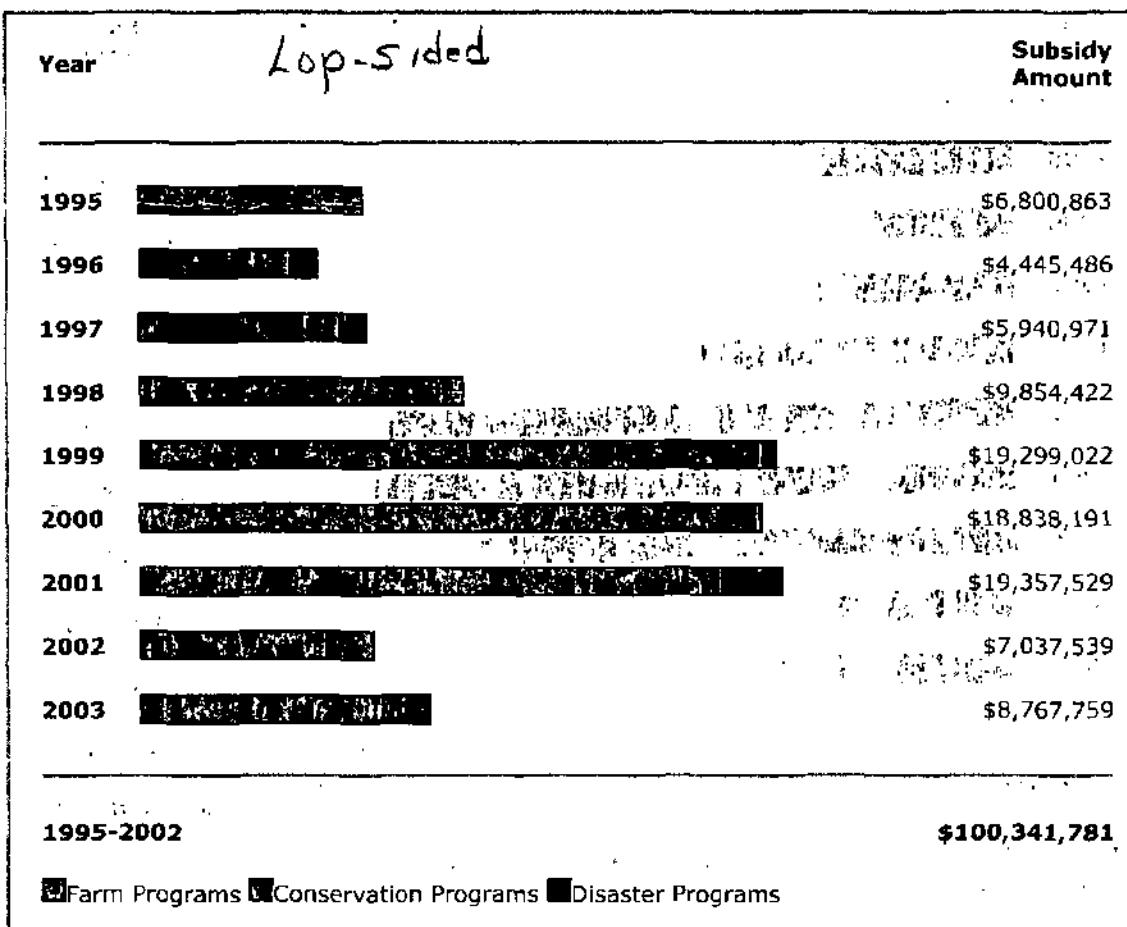
Recipients 1269

Per Recipient Approx.  
\$49,690

Per Recipient (Less) → \$26,199 ← (More) per Recipient

Year	Conservation Subsidies		Disaster Subsidies		Commodity Subsidies		Total USDA Subsidies	
	recipients	payments	recipients	payments	recipients	payments	recipients	payments
1995	248	\$1,227,271	25	\$47,127	964	\$5,526,465	1,083	\$6,800,863
1996	251	\$1,145,423	0	\$0	1,008	\$3,300,063	1,112	\$4,445,486
1997	225	\$1,005,854	0	\$0	1,011	\$4,935,117	1,095	\$5,940,971
1998	143	\$616,360	180	\$197,558	966	\$9,040,504	1,015	\$9,854,422
1999	135	\$561,287	104	\$508,690	1,023	\$18,329,045	1,068	\$19,299,022
2000	147	\$606,485	108	\$129,467	1,005	\$18,102,239	1,049	\$18,838,191
2001	187	\$641,180	554	\$1,858,856	1,002	\$16,857,493	1,113	\$19,357,529
2002	221	\$638,444	428	\$1,499,401	893	\$4,899,693	1,060	\$7,037,539
2003	234	\$630,493	436	\$1,504,170	907	\$6,633,095	997	\$8,767,759
Total	508	\$7,072,797	855	\$5,745,269	1,548	\$87,523,715	1,767	\$100,341,781

### USDA Subsidies to Pierce County, Nebraska by year

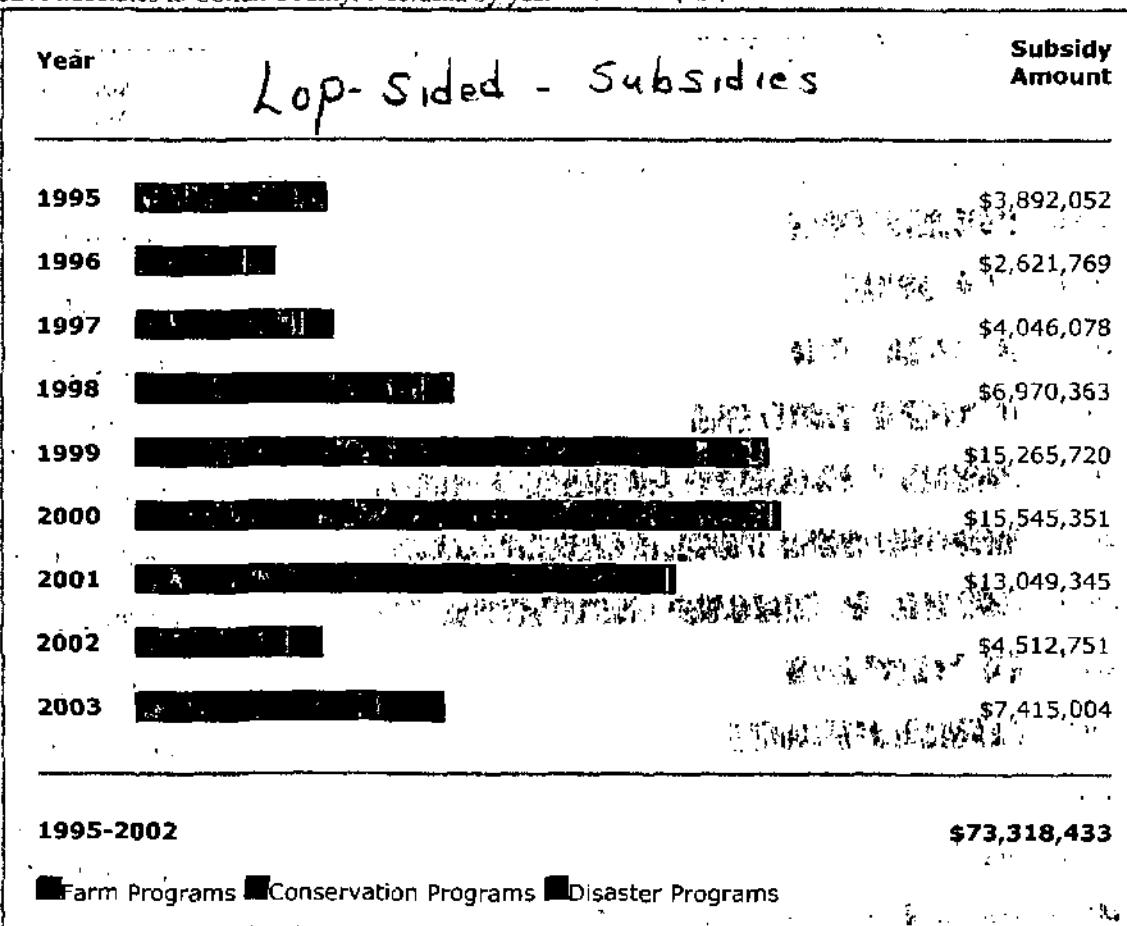


Conservation   Verses   Commodity's

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Year	Conservation Subsidies		Disaster Subsidies		Commodity Subsidies		Total USDA Subsidies	
	recipients	payments	recipients	payments	recipients	payments	recipients	payments
1995	90	\$218,912	3	\$13,842	960	\$3,659,298	997	\$3,892,052
1996	86	\$188,730	0	\$0	1,115	\$2,433,039	1,149	\$2,621,769
1997	87	\$287,945	0	\$0	1,128	\$3,758,133	1,157	\$4,046,078
1998	92	\$300,474	0	\$0	1,081	\$6,669,889	1,114	\$6,970,363
1999	118	\$357,608	44	\$130,166	1,159	\$14,777,946	1,191	\$15,265,720
2000	132	\$386,193	106	\$239,661	1,133	\$14,919,497	1,169	\$15,545,351
2001	153	\$496,167	192	\$209,080	1,098	\$12,344,097	1,147	\$13,049,345
2002	160	\$436,334	309	\$830,451	992	\$3,245,966	1,121	\$4,512,751
2003	189	\$480,014	549	\$1,600,163	1,010	\$5,334,827	1,084	\$7,415,004
Total	297	\$3,152,378	734	\$3,023,363	1,663	\$67,142,692	1,778	\$73,318,433

USDA Subsidies to Colfax County, Nebraska by year



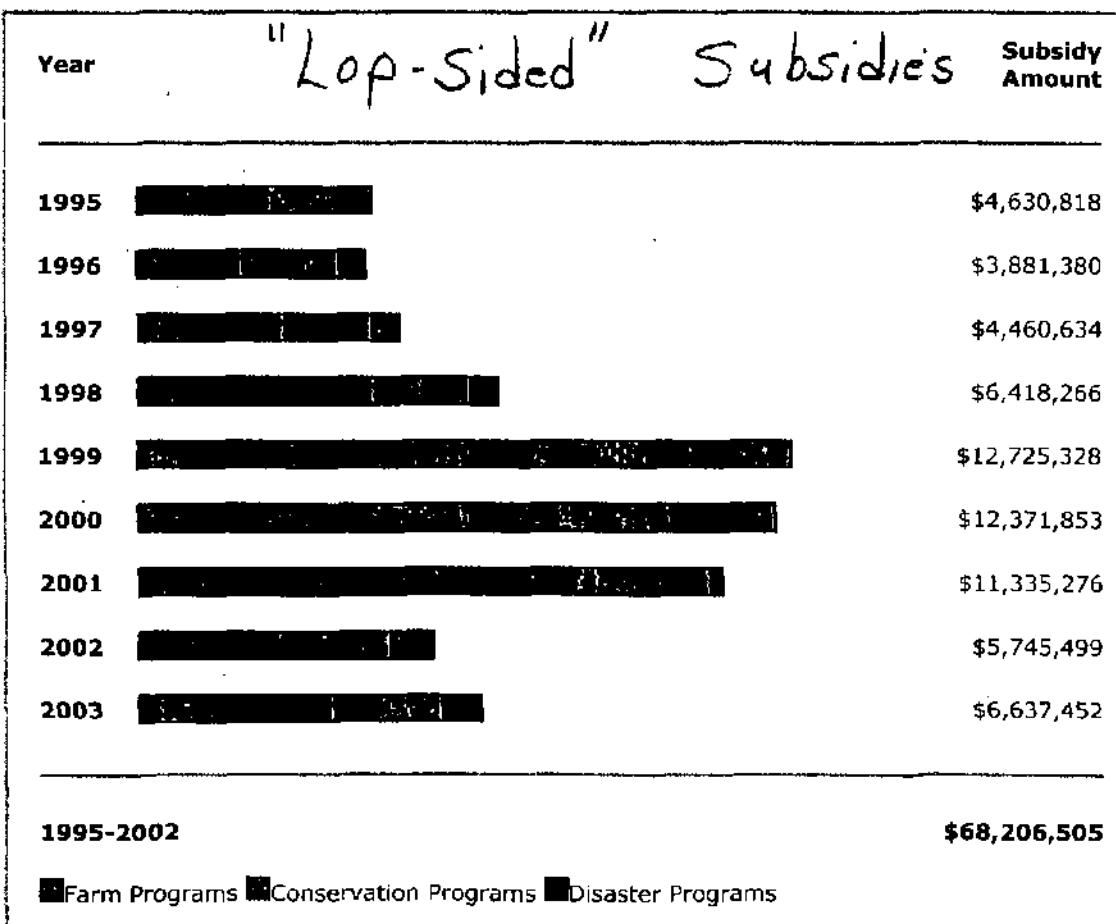
Conservation - Verses Commodities

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Lauon Schrant - 85140 - 569 Ave. Winside NE 68790

Year	Conservation Subsidies		Disaster Subsidies		Commodity Subsidies		Total USDA Subsidies	
	recipients	payments	recipients	payments	recipients	payments	recipients	payments
1995	311	\$1,967,431	17	\$56,888	779	\$2,606,498	973	\$4,630,818
1996	305	\$1,906,403	22	\$169	925	\$1,975,146	1,023	\$3,881,380
1997	296	\$1,727,462	0	\$0	958	\$2,733,172	1,079	\$4,460,634
1998	270	\$1,889,904	0	\$0	899	\$4,528,362	985	\$6,418,266
1999	269	\$1,951,966	25	\$90,133	944	\$10,683,229	1,036	\$12,725,328
2000	298	\$2,066,546	36	\$67,031	933	\$10,238,276	1,033	\$12,371,853
2001	336	\$2,212,232	157	\$323,617	911	\$8,799,427	1,052	\$11,335,276
2002	348	\$2,119,575	324	\$904,823	837	\$2,721,101	1,068	\$5,745,499
2003	362	\$2,125,681	249	\$801,246	885	\$3,710,525	1,013	\$6,637,452
Total	606	\$17,967,200	548	\$2,243,569	1,431	\$47,995,736	1,665	\$68,206,505

### USDA Subsidies to Stanton County, Nebraska by year



Conservation Verses Commodities  
 1995-2003 - 9 years  
 Recipients 606.      1665  
 Per Recipient Appr. \$29,648.      per recipient - \$40,965  
 Per Recipient Less →      ← More per recipient  
 Difference 11,317

LAVON Schrant  
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Winside, NE 68790

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY USA

ZOB JAN 17 A 9:38

Mervlyn Carlson - Deputy Under Secretary USDAO

Room 217 E Whitten Bldg USDO

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